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THE MONDAY MINUTE

with Dr. Williams



March 2, 2026

This week, we highlight how Montgomery College expands opportunity—through early college access, workforce-ready technology training, and leadership that strengthens our community. These stories reflect our focus on access, completion, and post-completion success, and our commitment to supporting every learner at every stage. Thank you for the role you play in advancing this work across our College.

BOW TIE CHATS: CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS WITH DUAL ENROLLMENT

In [this episode](#) of Bow Tie Chats, I visited Movement Gym in Rockville to speak with Renata Podlesny, a dual enrollment student and our student trustee, and her father about the power of early college access. Renata’s father described Montgomery College as a “hidden gem,” noting that dual enrollment provides high-quality college courses while students are still in high school. Renata shared how she is earning college credits at MC while still engaged in her high school experience. In addition to showcasing Renata’s impressive rock-climbing skills, this episode illustrates how dual enrollment strengthens academic preparation and accelerates degree progress in an affordable way.



CODING AND APP DESIGN BOOTCAMP AT IGNITE HUB

As technology continues to shape every industry, building digital skills is essential for academic and career advancement. This month, the ignITe Hub is offering a free, two-part Intro to Coding and App Design Bootcamp for adults—open to students, faculty, staff, and community members. Participants will gain hands-on experience with foundational coding concepts using Swift Playgrounds and explore how mobile apps are designed and developed for Apple devices. No prior experience is required. For students, this is an opportunity to strengthen career readiness; for employees, it offers professional growth in a rapidly evolving field. Registration is available through the [ignITe Hub](#).

MC STUDENT NAMED 2026 HITES SCHOLAR

Congratulations to student Ingrid Toukep on being named a 2026 Hites Scholar, one of most prestigious honors from Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the national honor society for community colleges. The \$7,500 Hites Transfer Scholarship is awarded to outstanding students preparing to continue their studies at four-year institutions. Selected from more than 3,000 applicants nationwide, she was recognized for her exceptional academic performance, strong leadership, and active involvement on campus and in the community. Ingrid will be honored at PTK's annual convention next month, a moment that highlights both her achievements and the power of early support and opportunity at MC. Thank you to the faculty and staff whose mentorship and dedication have helped shape her success.

With Raptor Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large, stylized 'J'.

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams
President

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